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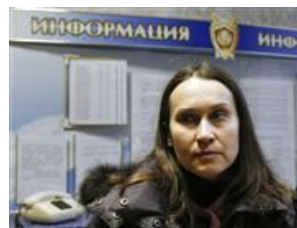
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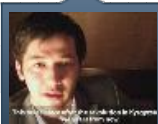
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Kyrgyz lawmakers and officials in the capital Bishkek prove that politics can sometimes be a joke.

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Belarus Crackdown



After last month's disputed election, hundreds of protesters remain in jail. Candidates who ran against President Alyaksandr

Lukashenka could be jailed for up to 15 years. See [this page](#) for some of the best reporting on the crisis from RFE/RL's Belarus Service.

From Our Bureaus



Kazakh Persecuted By Soviets Dies

Veteran Kazakh journalist Zhumaghalı Ismagulov was director in the 1980s of Soviet Kazakhstan's news agency KazTAG. He was sacked from that job after his agency published photographs of Kazakh students on trial. [More](#)



Former Ukraine Minister Granted Asylum

The Czech Republic has granted political asylum to former Ukrainian Economic Minister Bohdan Danylyshyn. [More](#)



Afghans Protest Iran Blockade

Hundreds of protesters organized by the Afghanistan Solidarity Party have gathered in front of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul to protest that country's ongoing fuel blockade. [More](#)



Kyrgyz Opposition Supporter 'Attacked'

A legislator in the opposition Ata-Meken parliamentary group has asked police to investigate the attack to determine whether it was politically motivated. [More](#)

Kazakh Authorities Seize Newspapers

A spokesman said the latest issue contained articles criticizing the proposed national referendum on prolonging President Nursultan Nazarbaev's term in office until 2020. [More](#)



Ebadi: Crackdown Shows Govt 'Fear'

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Cultural Capital



Son Of Imprisoned Iranian Filmmaker Jafar Panahi Says His Father Still Sees Beauty

The son of famed Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, who was sentenced to six years in prison and banned from making movies or traveling abroad for 20 years, has denied reports that his father had been working on a film about opposition activity. [More](#)

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